



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

## 25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

MEDIA CONTACT:

nnlb.communications@gmail.com

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### Navajo Nation Council supports Indian Programs Advance Appropriations Act of 2025 to ensure long-term federal funding stability



**Speaker Crystalyne Curley sponsored legislation calling for timely and stable federal appropriations for Indian programs.**

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** – The 25th Navajo Nation Council unanimously passed Legislation No. 0180-25, sponsored by Speaker Crystalyne Curley, urging the United States Congress to support and pass the Indian Programs Advance Appropriations Act of 2025.

The proposed legislation would authorize advance appropriations for critical Indian programs administered by the Indian Health Service (IHS), Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), and Bureau of Indian Education (BIE). These services include funding for law enforcement, health care, housing assistance, road maintenance, and education programs.

“The Navajo Nation has experienced the repeated consequences of funding delays through continuing resolutions and government shutdowns,” said Speaker Crystalyne Curley. “Advance appropriations would allow us to plan ahead, support our workforce, and ensure vital services continue uninterrupted for our communities.”

The legislation identifies the systemic disruptions caused by short-term federal funding, including delayed hiring, interrupted procurement, and long-term planning challenges. These disruptions hinder the federal government’s ability to uphold treaty responsibilities and trust obligations established in the 1868 Treaty between the Navajo Nation and the United States.

Speaker Curley further emphasized, “The Treaty of 1868 and long-standing federal laws affirm the government’s obligation to support the health, safety, and welfare of Indian Country. It is not a matter of discretion—it is a matter of justice. This resolution puts the Navajo Nation on record in support of predictable funding for our people.”

The legislation is based on the authority granted under 2 N.N.C. § 164(A)(16), allowing for emergency legislation due to the essential nature of services potentially being impacted by federal delays. The Tribal Budget and Interior Council (TIBC) is scheduled to meet August 4–7, 2025, to discuss FY2026 appropriations, prompting the Navajo Nation to act swiftly in advocating for inclusion in the budget process.

The Indian Programs Advance Appropriations Act of 2025, to be introduced by Senator Ben Ray Luján, seeks to authorize advance appropriations for IHS, BIA, and BIE programs and to institutionalize tribal consultation in the federal budget process. The legislation would mandate annual reports by the Secretaries of Interior and Health and Human Services to ensure funding estimates reflect actual service demands.

Legislation 0180-25 strengthens the Naabik’íyáti’ Committee’s previous approval of Resolution NABIJA-02-25, which formalized the Navajo Nation’s 2025 federal legislative priorities for the incoming presidential administration and 119th Congress, and identified advance and mandatory appropriations as a top priority for several Indian Affairs programs.

The legislation passed with a vote of 12 in favor and none opposed along with final authority resting with the Navajo Nation Council.

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